

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5. An oxygen scavenging packet, comprising:
- an oxygen permeable material formed into a closed packet for holding an oxygen absorber;
 - an oxygen absorber comprising iron within the packet of (a); and
 - 5 a liquid oxygen uptake accelerator, said accelerator comprising water, said accelerator being present in an amount relative to the amount of said oxygen absorber, such that when the liquid accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact, the oxygen absorber is capable of reducing the oxygen content of a predetermined volume containing about 2 vol% oxygen to less than 0.5 vol% oxygen at a temperature of about 34°F in ^{no more than 90 minutes} ~~a predetermined period of time~~ after said accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact;
- said oxygen uptake accelerator being present in said packet in an amount between about 0.2 and 1.4 mL per 2.5 grams of iron.
6. An oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 5, wherein said accelerator is deionized water.
7. An oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 5, wherein said oxygen absorber of (b) further comprises silica gel and a carbon dioxide generator.
8. An oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 5, wherein said iron is electrolytically annealed and reduced.
9. An oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 5, wherein said oxygen uptake accelerator is contained within an enclosed space within said packet.
10. An oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 5, wherein said oxygen uptake accelerator is contained within a bibulous wick, said wick extending from the exterior of said packet into the interior of said packet.

1 7. A method of reducing the oxygen concentration in an enclosed space comprising:

a. placing an oxygen scavenging packet within said enclosed space, said oxygen scavenging packet comprising:

- 5 i. an oxygen permeable material formed into a closed packet; and
ii. an oxygen absorber within said closed packet, said oxygen absorber comprising iron; and

b. introducing a liquid oxygen uptake accelerator comprising water directly onto said oxygen absorber, wherein said liquid oxygen uptake accelerator is
10 introduced in an amount relative to the amount of said oxygen absorber, such that when the oxygen uptake accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact, the oxygen absorber is capable of reducing the oxygen content of a predetermined volume containing about 2 vol% oxygen to less than 0.5 vol% oxygen at a temperature of about 34°F in ^{no more than 90 minutes} ~~a predetermined period of time~~ after said oxygen uptake accelerator and
15 oxygen absorber are brought into contact, said oxygen uptake accelerator being present in said packet in an amount between about 0.2 and 1.4 mL per 2.5 grams of iron.

2 8. A method of Claim 7, wherein said accelerator is deionized water.

3 9. A method of Claim 7, wherein said oxygen absorber further comprises silica gel and a carbon dioxide generator.

4 10. A method of Claim 7, wherein said iron is electrolytically annealed and reduced.